

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NOTICE OF SOURCE IDENTIFIED GERMPLASM RELEASE  
INDIAN BAYOU POWDERY THALIA

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service announces the naming and release of Indian Bayou powdery thalia, *Thalia dealbata* Fraser ex Roscoe. cv.

This powdery thalia has been assigned NRCS accession number 9059002.

ORIGIN:

Indian Bayou powdery thalia was collected from a native stand of the species growing at the water's edge of Indian Bayou where this bayou is crossed by Sunflower Avenue in Indianola, Sunflower County, Mississippi. This site is in Section 31, Township 19N, Range 4W. Elevation of the site is approximately 115 feet above mean sea level. Rainfall averages 54.2 inches annually.

ECOTYPE DESCRIPTION:

Indian Bayou powdery thalia is typical of plants found in the few stands of this species known to occur in the delta region of Mississippi. It is a robust, rhizomatous, glaucous perennial, being up to 2 m tall to the top of the scape. Leaves are large, ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, mostly 15-36 cm long by 6-13 cm wide, glaucous, with petioles up to 8-9 dm long. The inflorescence is terminal, composed of paired spikes with zig-zagged axes. Flowers are perfect, paired, subtended by two bracts. Sepals 3; petals 3, purplish; staminodia purplish and petaloid, the medial one largest and having a fertile stamen. The ovary is inferior, with 3 locules. The fruit is a purplish, subglobose urticule up to 13 mm in diameter. Flowering occurs from June to October, with seeds maturing from August to November.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Soil adjacent to the collection site is Dundee silt loam (surface 6-9" deep, slightly to moderately acid). The growth site at the water's edge may be flooded for an extended period in winter and early spring.

The yearly mean temperature is 64.3°F, with a mean high of 80.8°F and a mean low of 47.3°F. The long term extremes are 107°F high and -6°F low.

Various grasses, sedges, and herbaceous dicots grew in association with this powdery thalia.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Powdery thalia is found in ditches and at swamp margins and the edges of ponds from South Carolina to Texas and Oklahoma (Godfrey and Wooten, 1979). Articles providing information on nursery and production techniques could not be located. Limited experience by personnel at the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center has indicated that stratification at 4-5°C for 90 days breaks seed dormancy. The species may also be propagated vegetatively by means of basal offshoots.

AVAILABILITY OF PLANT MATERIALS:

Very limited quantities of Indian Bayou powdery thalia vegetative materials are available at the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center, Route 3, Box 215-A, Coffeeville, MS 38922-9263.

REFERENCE:

Godfrey, Robert K. and Jean W. Wooten. 1979. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States - Monocotyledons. Univ. of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date